Wheat procurement stock and import

1836. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stock of wheat with Government agencies during last five years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government have sufficient wheat in its stock to cater to foreseeable and unforeseeable requirements;

(c) whether Government's wheat procurement was below the target this year and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the reduced wheat stock compelled Government to import wheat and if so, the details of import of wheat; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase annual wheat procurement so as to discount the need of wheat imports in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The stock of wheat in Central Pool for the last five years are as under:—

(in lakh tonnes)

As on	Wheat
1.1.2002	324.15
1.1.2003	288.30
1.1.2004	126.87
1.1.2005	89.31
1.1.2006	61.88

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The procurement of wheat during the Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07 was 92.26 lakh tonnes against the estimate of 162 lakh tonnes given by the Food Secretaries of the procuring State Governments. The procurement has declined due to high ruling open market prices, lower than the targeted production of wheat, negative market sentiments due to low stocks of wheat in Central Pool and more active participation by private traders.

(d) Due to reduced availability of wheat stocks in the Central Pool, high ruling market prices, higher off take, lower procurement levels, and to augment the domestic availablility of wheat as the Government is firmly committed not to compromise in the matter of food security, a decision to import 50 lakh tonnes of wheat was taken.

(e) In order to procure sufficient quantity of wheat to meet the requirements of TPDS and welfare schemes, MSP for wheat in RMS 2007-08 has been fixed at Rs. 750/- per quintal which is Rs. 100/- quintal more than the MSP fixed in RMS 2006-07.

Wheat and rice to orphanages, blind schools and charitable institutions

†1837. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat and rice are provided on lower rates by Government to the orphanages, blind schools and charitable institutions being run by NGOs in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have banned the sale of wheat and rice on lower rates to such institutions, situated in Delhi and several other States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government have received any representation to remove the said ban; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Department of Food and Public Distribution allocates foodgrains under the scheme of 5% BPL to Welfare Institutions to State Governments/ Union Territories, who in turn allocate the same to the orphanages, blind schools and charitable institutions being run by NGOs

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.